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### **City of Rocky Mount Presented with Awards from NC Forest Service**

**ROCKY MOUNT, NC** – Nash County Ranger Bill Lewis with the North Carolina Forest Service presented the City of Rocky Mount with the Tree City USA award, the Tree City USA Growth Award, and the Tree Line USA award during the City Council meeting on Monday, May 11, 2015.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. This is the twelfth year the City of Rocky Mount has received the Tree City USA award by meeting the program's four requirements: a tree board, a tree-care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

"Everyone benefits when elected officials, volunteers and committed citizens in communities like Rocky Mount make smart investments in urban forests," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Trees bring shade to our homes and beauty to our neighborhoods, along with numerous economic, social and environmental benefits."

The city was also presented with the Tree City USA Growth Award for the fourth time for demonstrating environmental improvement and a higher level of tree care. The Growth Award recognizes new or improved programs and projects across four categories: education and public relations; partnerships; planning and management; and tree planting and maintenance.

Lastly, Rocky Mount was presented with the Tree Line USA award, which is a national program that recognizes both public and private utilities for their ability to deliver safe and reliable electricity while maintaining healthy community trees. According to the Arbor Day Foundation, there are many benefits to maintaining community trees, including cleaner air and water, higher property values, improved quality of life, energy conservation and reduced peak demand. This is the eighth year the City of Rocky Mount



has received this award. Rocky Mount is one of only three utility providers in North Carolina to receive the Tree Line USA award.

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About the Arbor Day Foundation: The Arbor Day Foundation is a million member non-profit conservation and education organization with the mission to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. More information is available at [arborday.org](http://arborday.org).

